

REMARKS

In order to more clearly define and claim applicant's invention, the above-referenced patent application has been amended.

Claims 1-2, 4, and 6 have been amended.

Claims 1-7 remain in the application for consideration by the Examiner.

The specification has been amended for clarity.

No new matter has been added.

The following remarks are filed in support of the attached Declaration of Inventor.

The receiver tube of the present invention has a number of advantages over the receiver tubing of the prior art. The structure of the receiver tubes includes a flange portion which provides surprisingly great strength to the resultant product. The flange portion is produced when the raw material stock reaches a developed material limit and folds upon itself by a cold forming process wherein the metal material of the flange is caused to flow freely without the addition of any additional energy.

The utilization of supplemental restraints or die members are not required in forming the claimed receiver tube. Also, it has been found that variations in the wall thickness of the raw material stock are compensated for by the free flow of material to the outer dimension of the flange. This enables the utilization of a lower cost, readily available raw material stock in contrast to the higher cost raw material stock having tighter tolerances as needed in the manufacture of known receiver tubes.

Since the resultant product is formed by a free flow cold forming process, the metallurgy of the raw material stock has not been weakened, and the product incorporates maximum strength properties.

It will be readily apparent that by being able to utilize a low cost readily available stock material formed by a free flowing forming process, a product has been produced which has received extensive commercial acceptance.

It is submitted that the claims of record properly define applicant's product and adequately distinguish the same from the prior art known to the applicant.

The most pertinent prior art known to the applicant is U.S. Patent 6,408,672 to Roe, which discloses a die cavity having a recess formed therein into which a tube wall is caused to fold upon itself to form a flange. More particularly, the wall of the tube being formed is

forced or molded into the recess which determines the final shape of the flange. A calculation must be made to determine the quantity of material which must be left outside of the cavity of the clamp prior to the forming process in order to fill the recess of the die cavity during the forming process. Variations in material wall thicknesses are undesirable as they will effect the final shape. Special raw materials having tighter manufacturing tolerances reduce these variations, but result in higher raw material costs.

Should the Examiner deem it necessary to further explore the material discussed above or included in the Declaration of Inventor, it is requested that an interview be arranged in an effort to expedite the prosecution of the application. Should the Examiner consider that the applicant's presence would be desirable, this will be arranged.